
The EDI Wave

Riding the Wave



Issue 9

January 2000

Trading Partner Stats

Just a quick look at our Trading Partner Stats. Our TPs account for approximately 64 percent of our hazardous waste business (based on Task Orders (TOs) issued). For the months of October through December 1999, we issued 732 TOs via EDI. A breakout is as follows: Safety-Kleen - 273; Chem-Met – 248; Philip - 91; ATI - 53; AES – 35; GNI - 19; MKM 9; and EETCO – 4.

Trading Partner Working Session

(by Cathy Bednar)

On December 16, 1999, DRMS-TP and LMI conducted an Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) work session with their current Hazardous Waste Trading Partners (TPs). Participants included individuals from DRMS-TPOS, LMI, the Cleveland ECRC, American Environmental Services, Chem-Met Government Services, Pyramid Communications, Safety-Kleen, The GNI Group, and Philip Environmental Services.

DRMS conducted the work session in order to provide their TPs with updated information pertaining to the Hazardous Waste EDI initiative. DRMS currently issues, via EDI, Hazardous Waste Task Orders (TOs) to eight of their contractors using the 850 transaction set. The trading partners then respond with a TO Acknowledgment using the 855 transaction set. Both are transmitted using the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) X12 Version Release 3050.

DRMS has decided to move to ANSI ASC X12 Version Release 4010 since data elements reflecting dates are capable of carrying Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant dates in the standard date format (CCYYMMDD). The work session provided an opportunity for the TPs to receive the current Version 4010 Implementation Conventions (ICs) and Hazardous Waste mapping requirements. The work session also allowed the contractors an opportunity to provide their comments and input on each transaction set. Cathy Bednar, DRMS-TPOS, provided a general overview of where the Hazardous Contracts Division wants to go in regards to EDI. She informed the contractors that the contracting directorate is very eager to

Inside This Issue

- 1** Trading Partners Status
 - 2** Trading Partner Work Session
 - 3** Issues and Concerns from Working Session
 - 4** PKI
 - 5** Communication
-

Trading Partner Working Session (cont'd)

begin testing of the new transaction sets as soon as all programming is finished. March 2000 is the target date for completion of the programming. She also made it known that the contracting directorate is eager to enter a paperless environment where the contractors will no longer receive hardcopy backups of the transactions. Existing contracts and solicitations will be modified (or amended) to add Trading Partner agreements.

Don Egan and Kathleen Fory, both of LMI, presented and discussed the current ICs and mapping requirements for the following transactions: Hazardous Waste TO, TO Acknowledgment, TO Modification, TO Modification Acknowledgment, Hazardous Waste Material Receipt, and Hazardous Waste Application Advice. These are equivalent to the transaction sets known as the 850, 855, 860, 865, 861, and 824, respectively.

DRMS plans on having all contractors up and running using these new transaction sets by summer of 2000. Another meeting will be held if the contractors feel more information and interchange is required before full implementation.

Issues and Concerns From Working Session

(by Randy Smith, Cathy Bednar, Sherri Underwood)

Numerous issues and concerns were voiced during the Trading Partner Working Session mentioned above. Some of these will be addressed in this issue.

850 Transaction Set (Task Orders)

- Q. Several different pieces of information are contained in one large text field in the BOSS Task Order noun description (PID field). This causes confusion in reading the task order and causes problems in the EDI file transfer. Can the BOSS Task Order (850) noun description be broken into individual data elements?
- A. Right now, the BOSS programmers are focused on developing the new EDI transaction sets (the 860 and 861) and Programming for Version 4010. We will discuss the issue of the NDR with them to see if it can be done after these programs are completed (possibly the June 2000 timeframe).
- Q: DoDAAC's are not unique and do not provide an exact pick-up location. We would like to see an exact pickup location. This could be accomplished using the EPA# or put in the very least be part of the Noun Description for the line item(s). If the EPA number could not be programmed to show up on the hardcopy Task Order, contractors would like it to be included in the EDI transaction set.
- A. DRMOs do provide the pickup DoDAAC, specific location, and possibly the generator EPA within the BOSS noun description. The pickup DoDAAC and location should be unique enough to identify where the item is in most cases. The first eleven characters in the BOSS noun description usually contain the waste profile number. The waste profile contains the generator EPA ID number. All waste profile sheets are available at the DRMO and can soon be provided in an automated format.

860 Transaction Set (Task Order Modifications)

- Q: Contractors stated they wanted to receive dollar information per line item in addition to a total dollar amount.
- A. We have spoken with LMI on this issue and they plan to incorporate this information into the mapping. We will then have this information programmed into the 860.

Issues and Concerns From Working Session

(cont'd)

(by Randy Smith, Cathy Bednar, Sherri Underwood)

861 Transaction Set (Pickup, Interim, and Disposal Manifests)

Q: Forty-eight hours is too quick to get data from a TSDF and to have it input either into the web form or to generate the 861.

A: Agreed. We currently require the DRMO to enter manifest information within five working days after receipt of the return copy of the pickup manifest. For the pickup manifest, we may require contractors to provide the EDI transaction in a similar timeframe. For interim and disposal manifests, the contractor would be required to submit for payment, so the financial incentive should create timely EDI transactions.

Q: The 861 allows organizations to be identified by EPA ID and DoDAAC. Many organizations, including contractors and transporters, would not have the EPA ID. Wouldn't it be better to use CAGE and DUNs?

A: Either an EPA number or a BOSS number is required for all transporters and facilities. For non-RCRA permitted facilities and transporters, the BOSS number associated with the transporter or facility on the qualified listings on the DRMS web page (http://www.drms.dla.mil/newenv/html/hw_disposal.html) will be utilized.

Q: Why submit both a Pickup manifest and a disposal manifest even if only one movement. Consider a new EDI (Web) code to indicate a combined Pick Up and Disposal manifest and have DRMS/BOSS input into both screens.

A: Our programmers are already working on this fix and we hope that in March we will be ready to test an 861 that would be both a pickup and a disposal for direct shipments. DRMS will no longer input into these screens. The purpose of the EDI transaction of manifest data is to eliminate duplicate data entry by DRMS personnel and to speed payment to contractors. The contractor is already inputting manifest data to create automated waste manifest printouts for shipments and to complete DRMS required 1683 forms. The purpose of the 861 EDI transaction set is to replace the DRMS 1683 form. This means that for TPs using the 861 EDI process, there will no longer be manual tracking at DRMS, no more Fed Ex costs, nor the associated backlog of packets waiting for review.

Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and Digital Signatures

(by Marc Graves)

DRMS and its EDI trading partners ended the last millennium with an appreciation for the challenges and benefits of initiating electronic commerce in the DoD contracting marketplace. As the DoD moves towards conducting new electronic business practices through Internet technology, the need to secure and protect information as it traverses the Defense Information Infrastructure is vital to the success of this "paperless" migration.

A digital certificate-based Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) can provide the mechanisms to establish trust relationships and information assurance services including:

- Data Integrity: Protect data from unauthorized modification
- Data Confidentiality: Protect data from unauthorized disclosure
- User Identification and Authentication: Verification that entities are who they claim to be
- Access Control: Protect against unauthorized use

Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and Digital Signatures (cont'd)

(by Marc Graves)

Both the DoD and the GSA (on behalf of other federal agencies) have selected "Certificate Authorities" as trusted third parties to issue these digital certificates. Currently these include: Digital Signature Trust Co., Operational Research Consultants, Inc., AT&T Corporation (federal agencies only) and VeriSign (DoD only).

Each electronic certificate contains the certificate owner's public key, name, and other identifiable information. This permits any certificate holder to verify public key digital signatures. These digital signatures, like the electronic certificates, are also nearly impossible to counterfeit.

There are currently several pilot programs using PKI and digital signatures that are of interest to DRMS EC partners. The DoD is utilizing PKI in its Wide Area Workflow program to provide digital signatures on an electronic "DD 250" material inspection and receiving report. This mechanism is also being employed in the Electronic Document Access pilot as a means to control access to contract and financial documents. The United States Environmental Protection Agency is also using digital signatures in an EDI 856 transaction set as part of their Hazardous Waste Automation Pilot.

For further information on PKI, contact the Cleveland ECRC at 888-991-3272 or link to: <http://www.wcecrc.org/pkisource.html>

Communication

(by Cathy Bednar)

Communication is vitally important to the success of EDI. Please let one of the POCs listed below know if you are experiencing any problems with your EDI transmissions. We are here to help you in any way we can. We are always interested in receiving your opinion and input. Please submit your questions, concerns or ideas to one of the POCs listed below. We are here to work with the Trading Partners so that all can "Ride the Wave". Hope to hear from you. Let's keep the lines of communication open.

Cathy Bednar, (616) 961-7309 (cbednar@mail.drms.dla.mil)

Cindy Fellows, (616) 961-4802 (cfellows@mail.drms.dla.mil)

Sheryl Woods, (616) 961-4071 (swoods@mail.drms.dla.mil)